

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

12 January 1984

The Terrorist Threat to US Personnel in Beirut

Summary

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
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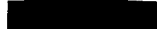
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Date JUN 1999

Who is Involved?

Radical Lebanese Shias and anti-Arafat Palestinian dissidents, based in the Bekaa Valley and southern Beirut, are the primary elements of an emerging terrorist network in Lebanon. Shia extremist groups, such as Islamic Amal, Hizb Allah, the Husayni Suicide Forces, and the Muslim Students Union, are committed to the goal of replacing the Christian-dominated Lebanese Government with an Iran-style Islamic republic. Their members--perhaps totaling as many as 1,000--view the MNF contingents as President Amin Gemayel's principal supporters, and therefore their immediate objective is to force the ~~MNF~~ out of Lebanon. 

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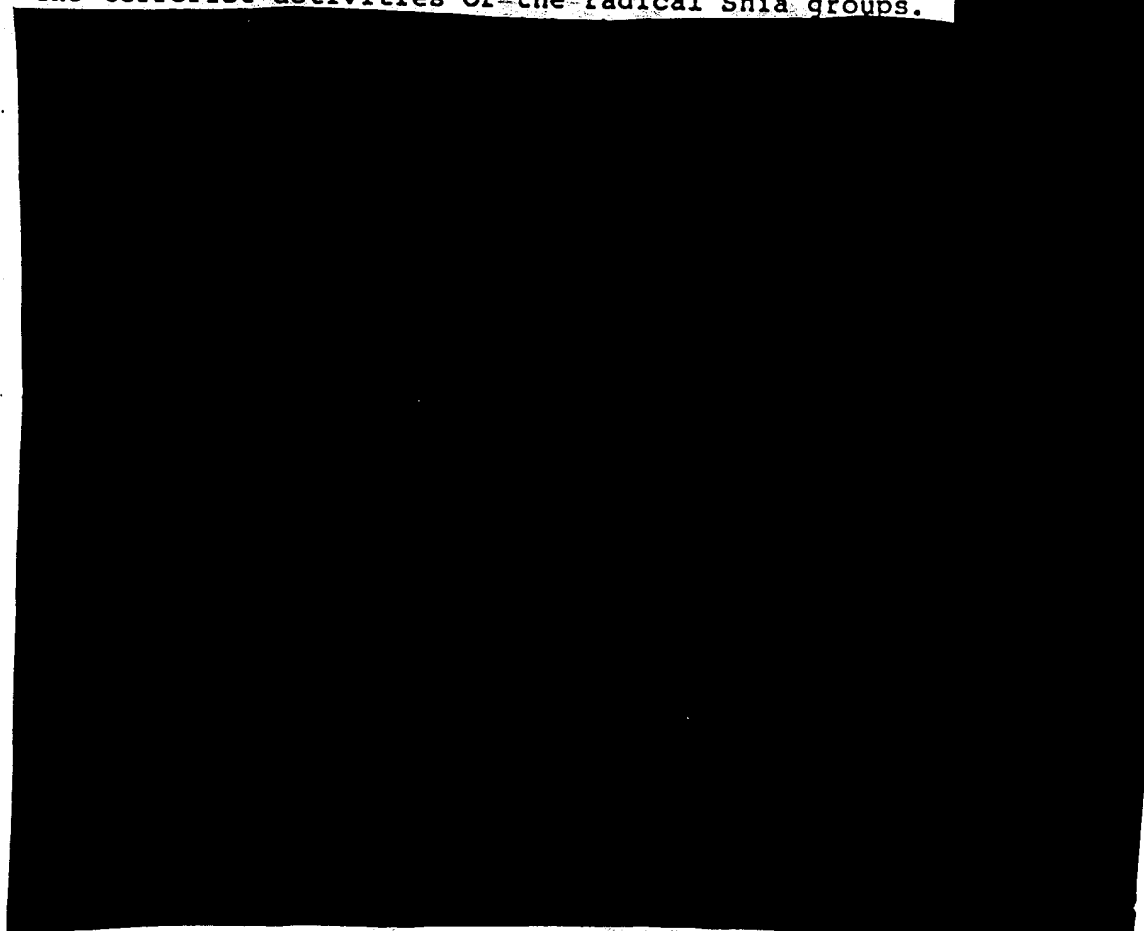
The Iranian Government encourages and materially supports the terrorist activities of the radical Shia groups. 

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These Shia and Palestinian groups, as well as their Iranian and Syrian sponsors, almost certainly believe that the bombing at

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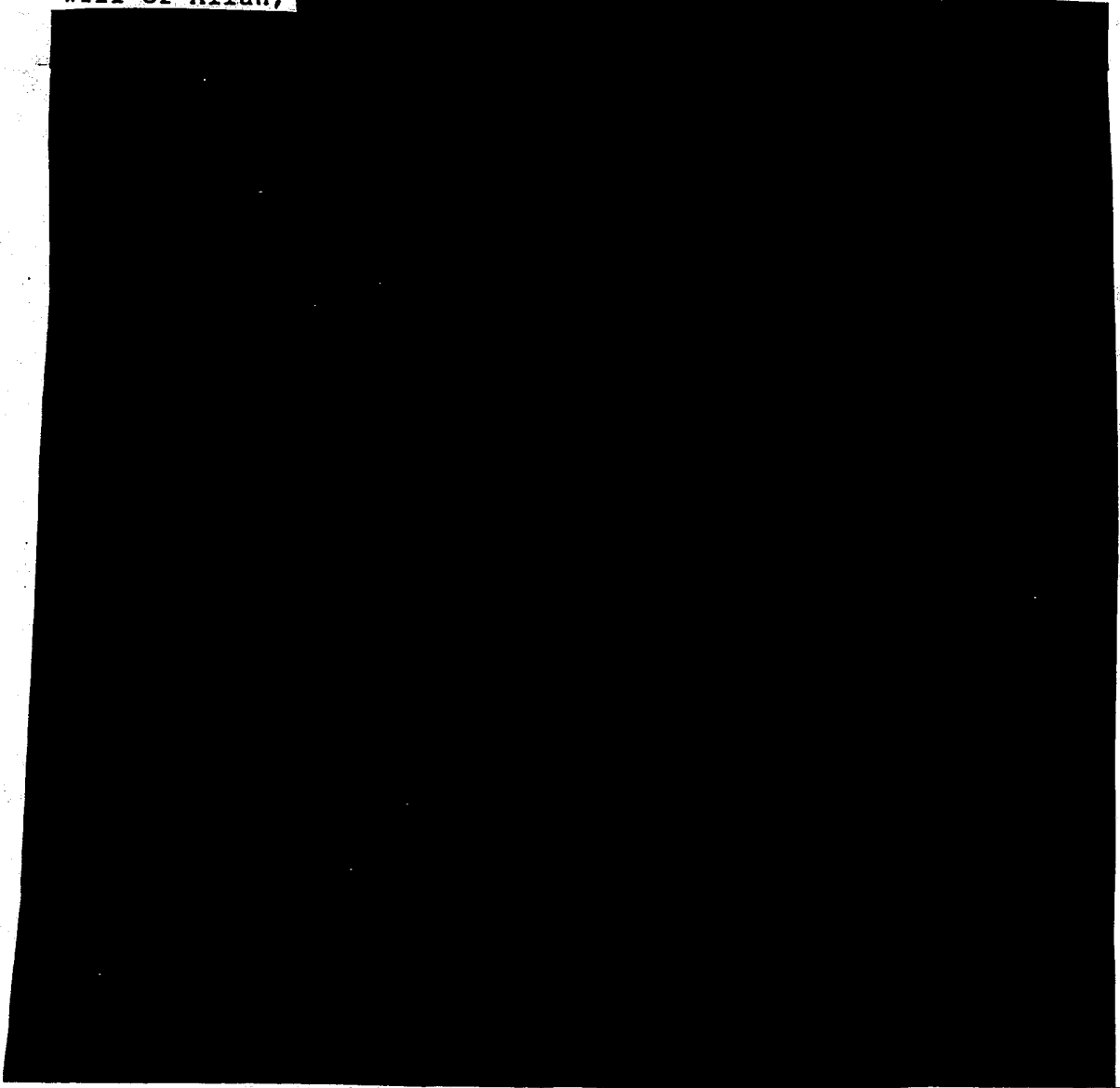
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the Marine compound in October has influenced US public opinion and put pressure on US policymakers to withdraw from Lebanon. They are therefore convinced that an intensifying campaign of terrorist violence against the MNF will advance their objective. ~~XXXX~~ b3


Shia extremists are increasingly willing to sacrifice their lives in attacks on the MNF. Confident that they are serving the will of Allah, ~~XXXX~~



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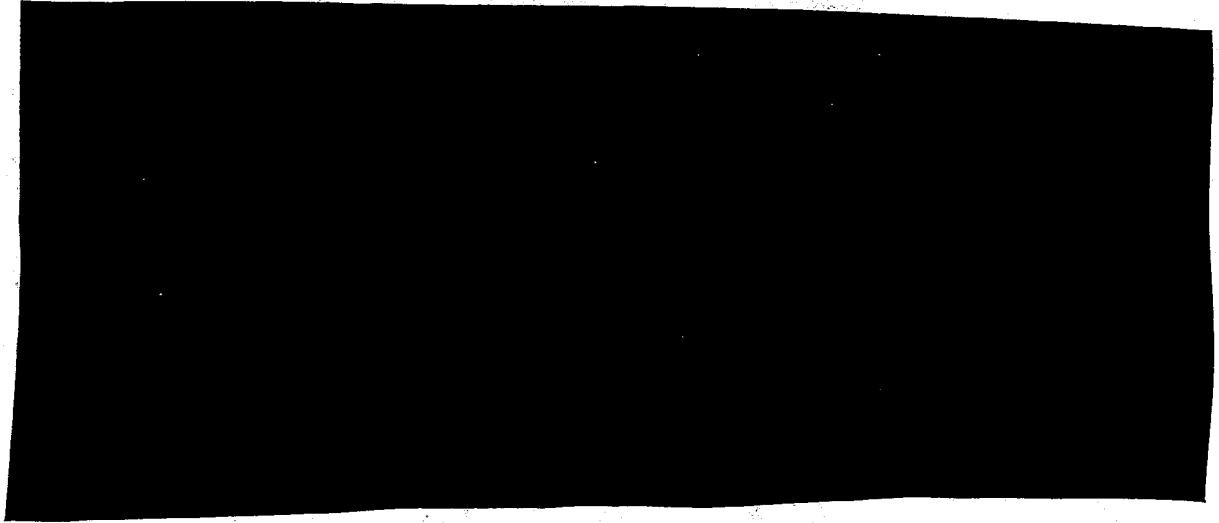
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Outlook

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